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Letter dated 26 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my letter of 17 April 2000 (S/2000/325), I informed you that the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) had arbitrarily detained 43 Serbs in Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, 37 of whom were on hunger strike, protesting against the endless postponement of their cases. They are resolved to continue the strike until all their requests are fulfilled.

A doctors' concilium has examined the strikers and established that the condition of four of them has deteriorated. It will continue to deteriorate if the strike is continued, and the hardest hit are those suffering from chronic diseases. Turning a deaf ear by KFOR and UNMIK to the requests of detained Serbs is not only a blatant violation of basic human rights and a breach of judicial procedure, but can, in the circumstances, result in very serious consequences, including the death of the detainees.

Bringing this unlawful act of the international presences in the Serbian province to your attention, I call on you to use your influence to put an end to the plight of Serbs detained arbitrarily in Kosovska Mitrovica, the last refuge of the Serbian people expelled from their own land.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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